Further commitments can be made as and when additional gas becomes available.

Apart from these, there is also a proposal from AIDC for the setting up of a petrochemical complex based on gas. Decision on this will be taken based on techno-economic considerations.

Inefficient Services on enquiry Telephones

1118. SHRI SHAMIM AHMED SIDDIQI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a large number of complaints regarding inefficient service on inquiry telephone numbers like 197, 198 and 199 etc.;

(b) what are the reasons for deterioration of service on these numbers; and

(c) what steps have been taken to check negligence on the part of the operators on these numbers?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir. The performance of special Services on '197', '198' and '199' are generally satisfactory.

(b) At times the services are affected due to heavy traffic during busy hours and due to sudden absenteeism of telephone operations.

(c) To improve these services the department is taking the following steps.

(i) Training the Operative Staff for courteous reply and business like answers to the subscribers.

(ii) Monitoring the services at the management level by making calls at frequent intervals.

Soviet offer for Bakreshwar Power Project

1119. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE:
DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Soviet Union have put forward their proposals to the Government of India and are even ready to start construction of Bakreshwar power project;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in clearing the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) The Soviet Union has evinced interest in extending assistance, on mutually acceptable terms and conditions, for new projects of an aggregate capacity of 3840 MW on which work could start before March, 1990. The projects to be implemented with Soviet assistance will be identified by the Government of India.

With a view to avail Soviet assistance in implementation of the Bakreshwar thermal power project, a proposal to execute the project in the Central Sector is presently under consideration in consultation with the Government of West Bengal. The State authorities have been advised to start work on infrastructure development.

Power generation through non-conventional energy sources

1120. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the State-wise quantum of power generation through non-conventional energy sources till December, 1987;

(b) whether the targets of power generation through non-conventional sources of energy have been achieved; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the shortage of power on account of extreme drought situation has been met by the power generation through non-conventional sources?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Demonstration projects for MW—scale power generation mainly through wind farms have been taken up in the states of Gujarat, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra and Orissa. These have generated over 90 lakh units of electric power. In addition solar photovoltaic devices for lighting, pumping etc. installed in various states are estimated to have generated 13 lakh units of electric power. Solar thermal devices, installed so far are estimated to be generating another 200 million Kwhrs. of thermal energy per year. Energy generation through around 9 lakh biogas plants and energy saving effected by over 30 lakh improved chulhas installed so far is estimated to be equivalent to about 5 million tonnes of wood per year.

In all the programmes, the targets have not only been achieved but exceeded. These programmes have started giving benefits to people in rural areas including those effected by drought in those areas. Large scale electric power generation from renewable energy has also been demonstrated and can be expanded if adequate funds are available.

LPG connections granted on the recommendations of M.Ps

1121. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases recommended by Members of Parliament for the grant of cooking gas connections during the last three years; and

(b) the number of persons who have been granted LPG connections on such recommendations during this period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) In accordance with the policy of releasing a specified number of connections every year on the recommendations of Members of Parliament, the following number of L.P.G. connections were released during the last three ears:

Year	No. of L.P.G. Connections released
1985	5,255
1986	6,145
1987	9,791

Complaint against non delivery of Money Order and Insured letters

1122. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received about the non delivery of money order and insured letters during the last financial year and from April 1987 till January, 1988;

(b) the total amount of money involved in these undelivered money orders and insured letters;